

Final Alaska Trojan Fisheries Update

Phil Smith, RAM
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This is the Final Update on the effects of the Order by the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, with respect to issuing Quota Share (QS) to Alaska Trojan Fisheries. In relevant part, the Order stated as follows:

(NMFS is) ... hereby directed to allow Alaska Trojan Partnership to participate on an interim basis in the Western Aleutian Islands golden king crab fishery opening on August 15, 2005, as if Alaska Trojan Partnership had originally qualified for an Aleutian Islands brown king crab endorsement on its license, No. LLC3873..."

Alaska Trojan Partnership, v. Carlos M. Gutierrez; et.al.,
[No. 04-35753 • D.C. No. CV-04-00003-J-RRB]

We have now complied with the Order in all particulars. Quota Share (QS) amounts for all affected participants have been recomputed and re-issued, as have all of the resulting Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) and Individual Processing Quota (IPQ) permits (including, because of a small but unforeseen “glitch” in the system, the re-issuance of some processor IPQ permits). Additionally, permits for Registered Crab Receivers (RCRs), Federal Crab Vessels (FCVs), and “Hired Skippers” are being issued.

In short, all federal permitting necessary for qualified persons to participate in the August 15, 2005, Aleutian Islands golden king crab fishery has been accomplished.

As a result of the Order (which was issued on Monday, August 8), we were required to:

- Determine Alaska Trojan’s qualifying landings in the Western Aleutian golden king crab (WAG) fishery, calculate the amount of resulting Quota Share (resulting in 24.4% of the Quota Share in that fishery being issued to Alaska Trojan);
- Re-calculate the Quota Share (QS) amounts awarded to persons whose QS eligibility is derived from their License Limitation Program crab licenses (so-called “owner” QS), and re-calculate and re-designate the regional characteristics of all harvesting QS for the fishery (and notify all participants of the changes); and,
- Calculate the appropriate Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) and Individual Processing Quota (IPQ) amounts for Crab Harvesting Cooperatives and eligible Processors, and issue the permits.

As noted, those steps have all been taken.

Finally, participants are reminded that we can not process applications to transfer WAG harvester QS until the legal uncertainties surrounding this fishery have been clarified.

If there are any questions about this update, please contact RAM by telephone [at 1-800-304-4846 (press “2”)] or by e-mail [at **RAM.Alaska@noaa.gov**].